

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Patent Application No.: 10/526,380

Attorney Docket No.: Q86648

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please replace Figs. 3-5 with the replacement drawings submitted herewith. No new matter has been added.

Attachment: Two (2) Replacement Sheets (Figs. 3-5)

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are all the claims pending in the application.

Figures 3, 4 & 5 are required to be designated as "Prior Art."

The first paragraph of the Specification has been objected.

Claim 4 is objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.75(c) for being in improper multiple dependency.

Claims 1 & 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fuji Electric Co., Ltd. (JP 2000-316285) in view of Kobayashi (U.S. Patent No. 5,512,782) and further in view of Miki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,055,990).

Claims 3 & 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi (U.S. Patent No. 5,512,782) in view of Fuji Electric Co., Ltd. (JP 2000-316285) and further in view of Miki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,055,990) and Hitachi (JP 08-251908).

The Applicants traverse the rejections and request reconsideration.

Formal Matters

The Applicants respectfully submit replacement drawings for Figs. 3-5, duly marked "Prior Art" to overcome the noted objections.

Claim Objections

The Applicants amend the claims to overcome the noted objections.

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Rejection of claims 1 & 2 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on Fuji Electric Co., Ltd. in view of Kobayashi and further in view of Miki et al.

Fuji Electric Co., Ltd. (JP2000-316285) suggests that a snubber circuit with twelve snubber diodes is connected to six terminals (see Fig. 27 of Fuji). However, as the Examiner admits Fuji does not teach providing a package for enclosing the snubber diodes and capacitors.

Kobayashi (U.S. Patent No. 5,512,782) suggest capacitor external terminals and diode external terminals being exposed from the package. However, Kobayashi discloses six snubber diodes and snubber capacitors enclosed in a package. Such a configuration of Kobayashi completely differs from the present invention. In the present invention, snubber diodes and the snubber capacitor are enclosed in a resin mold.

Miki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,055,990), on the other hand, teaches that the circuit is hermetically sealed in a synthetic resin mold. However, Miki et al. does not teach that the capacitor external terminals and the diode external terminals are exposed from the resin mold.

Moreover, in the present invention, the power conversion apparatus can be miniaturized. Therefore, insulation is facilitated (Specification pg. 7, line 35 - pg. 8, line 15). However, the structures provided by neither Kobayashi nor Miki facilitate miniaturization of the power conversion apparatus by enclosing the snubber diodes and the snubber capacitor in a resin mold. Therefore, it is more difficult to provide for insulation because the capacitor external terminals and diode external terminals are exposed from the resin mold.

The Applicants respectfully submit that a skilled artisan would not have found it obvious to modify the structure of Kobayashi, which encloses the snubber diodes and the snubber capacitor in a package, based on the structure of Miki et al., which encloses the snubber diode and the snubber capacitor in a resin mold. In fact, by placing the components in a resin mold Miki teaches away from Kobayashi.

Additionally, the Applicants respectfully submit that by placing the device of JP 2000-316285 in a resin mold, the device of JP 2000-316285 will not function according to its intended design and purpose.

Rejection of claims 3 & 4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on Kobayashi in view of Fuji Electric Co., Ltd. and further in view of Miki et al. and Hitachi

Claims 3 and 4 are dependent on claim 1. Therefore, the arguments discussed above are equally valid.

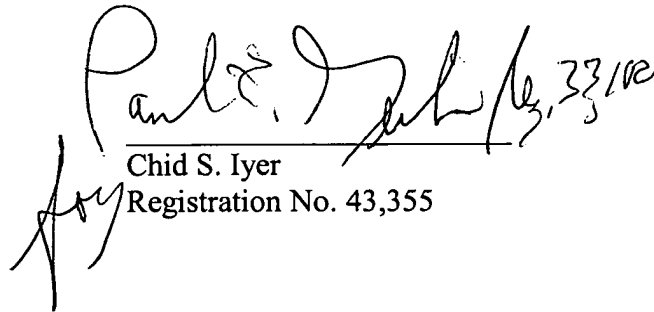
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Patent Application No.: 10/526,380

Attorney Docket No.: Q86648

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


Chid S. Iyer
Registration No. 43,355

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: February 1, 2006